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# Life *with* Forest

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## **National Workshop on Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and Community Forestry (CF)**

A 3-day national workshop on CBNRM and CF was held at Hotel Timor, Dili from June 27 to 29, 2018 jointly organised by MAF (Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants: DGFCIP), FAO and JICA.

The workshop had participants from a wide range of institutions, both the Government and private. In the first day of the workshop, there were around 120 participants including MAF Central/ Municipalities, MAF Regional Directors, Municipality Administrators, UN/ Bilateral Agencies, International and local NGOs and RECOFTC, Bangkok.

### **The objectives of the workshop were set as follows:**

- To exchange ideas and experiences related to CBNRM/CF in Timor-Leste and other Asian countries; and
- To understand and provide feedback on two draft national documents i.e. National CF Strategy and CBNRM Roadmap.

**[Day 1]** The participants had an opportunity to learn and share the experiences of CBNRM-JICA, Conservation Agriculture - FAO, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) – World Vision, Community Reforestation - GCCA – GIZ and Collaborative Protected Area Management - Conservation International. They were also exposed to CF experiences in other Asian countries such as Nepal and Vietnam. **[Day 2]** The participants were taken to project site of CBNRM (Suco Madabeno) and FMNR (Suco Liurai) for interaction with the communities and observe the models introduced. **[Day 3]** The participants worked in small groups to review the drafts of National CF Strategy and CBNRM Roadmap and provide their suggestions as follows.

### **Major suggestions made by the workshop participants for the implementation of CBNRM and CF**

- Need to obtain sufficient understanding and support of policy makers on the necessity of CBNRM and CF in Timor-Leste
- The Government should commit to allocate its budget to implement CBNRM and CF.
- For the implementation, the utmost priority should be put on capacity building of Government staff and communities.
- The Government should build effective linkages with external agencies for financial/technical supports, while strengthening its internal coordination mechanism across different levels (e.g. Centre-Municipality-Suco).

## **National Workshop on CBNRM and CF June 27-29, 2018**



### **Workshop Agenda**

#### **[Day 1] Plenary Session**

- 1.1 Basic Forest Law and Forestry Sector Policy in relation to CBNRM/CF
- 1.2 CBNRM/CF in Timor-Leste
- 1.3 CF in other Asian countries

#### **[Day 2] Field Visit to CBNRM/FMNR sites**

#### **[Day 3] Technical Session**

- 2.1 Proposed Strategies for CBNRM/CF
- 2.2 Group Discussions/ Suggestions for Implementation of CBNRM/ CF







## CBNRM Field-level Stakeholders' Workshops

At field level, the CBNRM Project (JICA experts and MAF counterparts) organised two workshops during March 2018 (14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) with the objective of providing a deeper understanding on the CBNRM mechanism to the leaders of villages, where PLUP is likely to be introduced by SAPIP and Conservation International. These workshops were attended by the Municipality Administrators and Post-administrative Administrators from Ermera, Liquica and Bobonaro; Chief of Sucos from 18 villages from Ermera and Liquica; SAPIP field coordinators; MAF Officials from the Municipalities.

All the participants were taken to the project village of JICA CBNRM (Fahisoi (Liquidoe) on Mar 14 and Madabeno on Mar 22) to directly interact with the communities on their experiences on CBNRM. The community explained the process of Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP), drafting of village regulations and implementation of Micro Program (MP) in the village using visuals. The participants raised number questions relating to problems in implementation, costs and benefits, strategies for sustainability etc. The community responded to the questions and emphasized the importance of participatory process adopted by them, which helped them to resolve the problems.

## Implementation of village regulations and its impact on natural resources

Since September 2017, monthly meetings of the village committee are held in 4 Sucos (i.e. Bocololo, Fatisi, Fahisoi (Remexio). and Fahisoi (Liquidoe)) to monitor the implementation of village regulations which were developed through PLUP. The same process was initiated in other 3 Sucos (Cotolau, Manucasa, and Maumeta) in March 2018. This gives an opportunity to the Suco and Aldeia leaders to identify the issues and respond to them. The process also builds the capacity of the village institutions and leaders for planning, implementation and evaluation of different activities at the village level. This also improves the problem-solving skills of the leaders. The impact of enforcing village regulations and its socialisation was evident from the proceedings of monthly monitoring meetings (See Figure below).

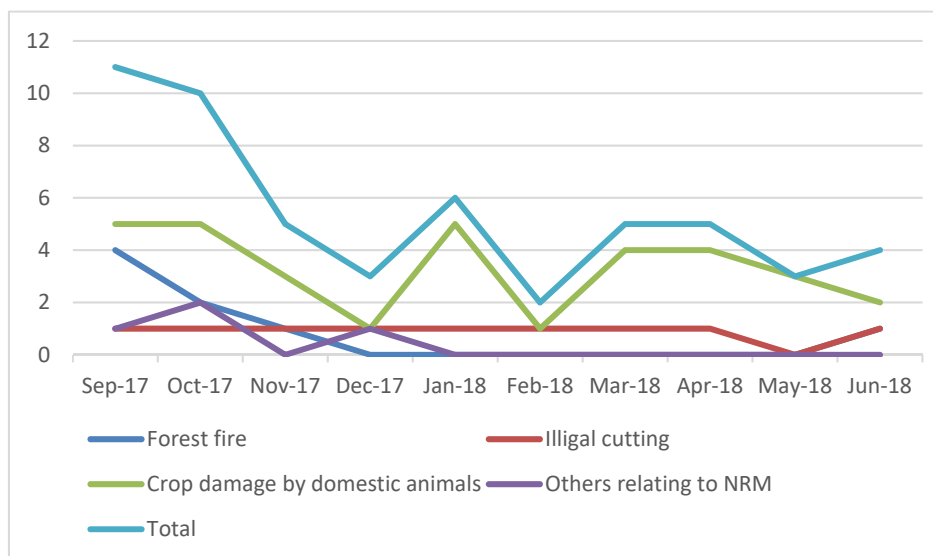


Figure: Number of the incidents reported at monthly monitoring meetings on local natural resource management at 4 sucos

No forest fire cases were reported by the village leaders since December 2017 in all four villages. Illegal cutting trees is also under control in all the villages barring one or two cases in the entire project area. In Fahisoi (Liquidoe), there has been no violation of village regulation since October 2017 especially for local natural resource management. Free grazing of domestic animals is often reported in most of the villages but the incidence of crop damage by those animals became less. It was also discovered that the cases of free grazing animals tend to be brought by a particular group in the community: the leaders are now attempting to convince them on the importance of observing the village regulations. The implementation of village regulations has also revived the system of inter-family resolution of social conflicts.



## Results from On-farm demonstrations in Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion Micro Program

Whilst supporting the implementation of the village regulations, the CBNRM Project has been implementing MPs for sustainable upland farming with the aim of making the communities more opt for permanent farming than for shifting cultivation. For 2017/2018 season, on-farm demonstration was undertaken in 4 project villages (Bocolelo, Fatisi, Fahisoi (Remexio) and Fahisoi (Liquidoe)). The community working groups, together with MAF extension officers and the partner NGOs, have harvested maize, red beans and sweet potato and recorded the final outputs.

The records of maize production at the demo plots are as shown in the table at right-hand side.

In Bocolelo, all demo plots revealed convincing results in introducing new techniques for sustainable upland farming. The data from Fatisi also showed positive performances in general, except one plot resulting in low production (640kg/ha). Although not presented in the table due to possible mistakes in data collection, the results in Fahisoi (Liquidoe) were also affirmative. The group members in these villages were excited to see the increased yield from the demonstration plots, as usually and seemingly they get about one ton, or sometime less, from their farms. On the other hand, there are some challenges found in the demo plots in Fahisoi (Remexio), which suffered from lack of rainfall and strong acidity in soil. The CBNRM Project will work with MAF extension officers, the partner NGO and community members to neutralize soil acidity with application of lime for the coming season.

**Table: Records of maize yields at the demo plots**

Suco	Number of demo plots	Number of samples taken for yield estimation (2mx2m)	Yield range (dry seeds) (kg/ha)	Median (kg/ha)	Average yield (kg/ha)	Major techniques applied
Bocolelo	5	5 samples/plot	2100 - 3300	2,800	2,720	Compost Organic liquid fertilizer Bench/ Stone terrace Contour compost
Fatisi	4	5 samples/plot	640 - 4400	3,375	2,898	Compost Organic liquid fertilizer Bench/ Stone terrace Contour compost
Fahisoi (Remexio)	4	3 samples/plot	333 - 3850	833	1,463	Compost Organic liquid fertilizer Bench terrace



## Promotion of Mushroom cultivation as livelihood development MP

For livelihood improvement for women, the CBNRM Project has been organising communities to work on wild collection, cultivation, processing and marketing of different varieties of mushroom. Training on cultivation of mushrooms was held by the JICA expert, during June 14-15, 2018 at Fahisoi (Liquidoe) for 19 Community members (M: 6 and F:13). The training programme included basic procedures for Oyster / Button Mushroom cultivation, materials required, and treatment requirement at different stages of cultivation, harvesting method etc. The process was demonstrated by the trainer with the assistance of MAF officials and NGO staff and necessary handout was provided to the trainees for future reference. Currently, some women's groups are engaged in trial cultivation of Oyster and Button Mushrooms.





## Training of Trainers on Community Forestry/ CBNRM

The CBNRM Project in collaboration with RECOFTC, Thailand organised a 4-day training of trainers' (TOT) programme at MAF, Caicoli from June 19 – 22, 2018. The TOT was facilitated by the experts from RECOFTC. 14 participants successfully completed the TOT and they included 3 technical staff from MAF, Caicoli, 3 Forest Guards from MAF Aileu Municipality and 8 from local NGOs. The learning objectives of the TOT were a) basic understanding of CF/ CBNRM concepts and principles; b) use of different participatory tools and techniques in CF/ CBNRM; and c) develop action plan to promote CF/ CBNRM collectively with other stakeholders. The participants were quite excited to learn the participatory methodology in CF and CBNRM, and prepared their own action plans to work on CBNRM.



## Watershed Management Councils (WMC)

The CBNRM Project supports the establishment and operation of WMCs, involving the villages that have introduced the CBNRM mechanism. The focus is placed on Bemós sub-watershed in Comoro watershed and Noru sub-watershed in Laclo watershed.

### Bemós WMC has started monitoring on natural resource management and developing its watershed management plan.

Bemós WMC was formed in March 2018. The first monitoring meeting, after formation, was held on March 13, 2018. The leaders from 6 Sucos in Laulara P.A. and MAF Caicoli participated in the meeting, which was jointly facilitated by the Administrator of Laulara PA and staff of HALARAE Foundation. The Chief of Suco from Dare, Dili Municipality also gave his consent for joining the WMC. The Suco Leaders shared the problems in natural resource management in their areas and action taken by them. Leaders from 3 Sucos reported the cases of crop damages by free-grazed animals. In two Sucos, illegal tree cutting happened during the night time and the Suco Leaders are discussing the strategies to control tree cutting during night time. The next meeting of Bemós WMC was organised on June 26, 2018. At this meeting, the members decided to develop a watershed management plan for Bemós sub-watershed and started discussion on the framework of the plan.

### Noru WMC is making follow-up on seeding distribution to the member Sucos

Noru WMC members met on June 14, 2018 to review the implementation of village regulations. 20 persons from the 12 Sucos, the Administrators of PAs – Liquidoe and Remexio, Extension Officers of MAF, Aileu, Staff of MAF, Caicoli, representatives from RAEBIA and JICA CBNRM Project attended the meeting.

No case of forest fire was reported in the meeting. Few illegal felling cases were reported by Fahisoi (Remexio), Acubilitoho and Manucasa. Free grazing was also reported in couple of Aldeias in Fahisoi (Remexio), Maumeta and Faturasa. The Council suggested the Suco leaders to have stringent penalties for the offenders based on the village regulations. In addition to daily monitoring on the incidence of the violation cases, the WMC played an important role in procurement of more than 12,000 seedlings from the nurseries of MAF and supply of these seedling to 10 Sucos for plantation. Progress and issues encountered in the seeding distribution were also reported and discussed.

## Upcoming Events

Development of “common guidelines” for watershed management in Timor-Leste in collaboration with different development partners


PLUP Training in Suco Dare (Bemós Sub-watershed) and Suco Fatrilau (Noru Sub-watershed)

**For further details, please contact us:-**

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